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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,418	06/30/2003	Dennis R. McKean	HSJ9-2003-0022US1	1933

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EXAMINER

SCHATZ, CHRISTOPHER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1733

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,418

Applicant(s)

MCKEAN ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher T. Schatz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-21, 30 and 31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/7/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of claims 22-29 in the reply filed on January 5, 2006 is acknowledged. Claims 1-21, 30, and 31 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurdi et al.

Kurdi et al. discloses a method for forming a slider assembly, comprising: (a) arranging a plurality of sliders each having a surface such that the surfaces are coplanar to each other; (b) dispensing a silicon-based polymer encapsulant fluid in a manner effective to bond the sliders without contacting the coplanar slider surfaces, and subjecting the dispensed encapsulant fluid to conditions effective for the fluid to form a solid encapsulant comprising a silicon-based polymer (column 6, line 60, column 5, line 32 – column 6, line 60, figures 3-6). Examiner acknowledges that the reference does not explicitly recite that the solid encapsulant is debondable. However, examiner asserts because the encapsulant is made of the same material as applicant's encapsulant, and applicant states in the specification that the use of a silicon-based polymer aids

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in making the encapsulant debondable, it is inherent that the silicon-based polymer of the Kurdi et al. is also debondable.

As to claim 23, Kurdi et al. discloses a method wherein step (a) comprises placing the sliders on a laminate of a flexible tape and an adhesive such that slider surfaces contact the adhesive 16 (figure 4). As to claim 24, Kurdi et al. discloses a method wherein the adhesive is resistant or impervious to solvation by the encapsulant fluid. As to claims 25-27, Kurdi et al. discloses a method wherein initial viscosity is about 20 to about 200 centistokes (column 6, line 66 – column 7, line 4). As to claim 28, Kurdi et al. discloses a method wherein step (C) comprises removing solvent from the encapsulant fluid (see example 1). As to claim 29, Kurdi et al. discloses a method wherein step (c) effecting crosslinking and/or polymerization in the encapsulant fluid (column 6, line 30-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurdi et al. '113 in view of Hussinger '430.

Kurdi et al. discloses a method for forming a slider assembly, comprising: (a) arranging a

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plurality of sliders each having a surface such that the surfaces are coplanar to each other; (b) dispensing a silicon-based polymer encapsulant fluid in a manner effective to bond the sliders without contacting the coplanar slider surfaces (column 6, line 60, column 5, line 32 – column 6, line 60, figures 3-6).

As discussed above, examiner believes that the solid silicon-based polymer material of Kurdi et al. is debondable even though the reference does not explicitly recite this. However, examiner asserts that it is well known in the art to use debondable encapsulant materials such that sliders can be removed after etching. For example, Hussinger discloses a method for forming sliders, wherein said sliders are encapsulated with an adhesive material 17, and said adhesive material is removed after processing of the slider is complete in order separate the sliders individually (column 3, lines 41 – column 4, line 2, figure 3). Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to make the silicon-based polymer encapsulant of Kurdi et al. debondable such that individual sliders can be removed from the encapsulant material.

As to claim 23, Kurdi et al. discloses a method wherein step (a) comprises placing the sliders on a laminate of a flexible tape and an adhesive such that slider surfaces contact the adhesive 16 (figure 4), As to claim 24, Kurdi et al. discloses a method wherein the adhesive is resistant or impervious to solvation by the encapsulant fluid. As to claims 25-27, Kurdi et al. discloses a method wherein initial viscosity is about 20 to about 200 centistokes (column 6, line 66 – column 7, line 4). As to claim 28, Kurdi et al. discloses a method wherein step (C) comprises removing solvent from the encapsulant fluid (see example 1). As to claim 29, Kurdi et

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al. discloses a method wherein step (c) effecting crosslinking and/or polymerization in the encapsulant fluid (column 6, line 30-60).

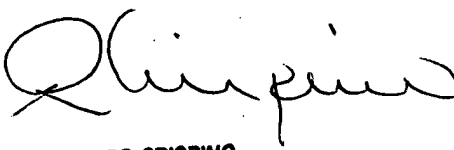
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Christopher T. Schatz** whose telephone number is **571-272-1456**. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30, Monday -Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on 571-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher T. Schatz


RICHARD CRISPINO
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